

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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HORNE ANNOUNCES ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) TEACHER OF THE YEAR

PHOENIX (Tuesday, December 11, 2007) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne announced today that Ms. Nancy Scruggs, a teacher at Paseo Hills Elementary School in the Deer Valley Unified School District, is this year's Arizona English Language Learner (ELL) Teacher of the Year. Scrugg's will be recognized on Wednesday, December 12 at the Westin La Paloma in Tucson.

Horne stated: "Teaching English is the most critical skill our teachers can give to our ELL students. Once students acquire English proficiency, they will soar academically."

The process for choosing the Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year 2006-2007 began with the call for applications in April, 2007. In August, the judging by a panel of peers was facilitated by the Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS), and the honoree was chosen. On September 26, 2007, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Horne, visited Paseo Hills Elementary School, with the announcement that Nancy Scruggs had been chosen the OELAS Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Scruggs teaches kindergarten, first, and second grade ELL students. Her most rewarding experiences include witnessing her students using their newly-acquired English in their reading, writing and oral conversations. In addition, she demonstrates her commitment to the families of ELL students by teaching adult English classes and by teaching parents strategies to assist in their children's learning. Her instruction always includes kinesthetic activities, real world applications, and visual support to help make letters and words come alive for her young students. She creates learning experiences for maximum student involvement. On one occasion, snow was delivered so students could experience the cold, could make a snowman, and they could wear mittens. Ms. Scruggs always teaches in English and makes sure to include oral, listening, reading, and writing activities every day. Comments from letters of recommendation included: "respected by her peers; creates a safe classroom environment; consummate professional; dependable team player, and a true classroom leader."

The recognition of Scrugg's is being held in conjunction with the OELAS Annual "Direction to the Future" Conference at The Westin La Paloma in Tucson.

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